



**RULE 116 AMENDMENT
RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Richard A. Howes et al.
Serial No.: 09/954,507
Filing Date: September 12, 2001
Group Art Unit: 2666
Examiner: Inder P. Mehra
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING
CONNECTION STATE BETWEEN CONNECTION
MANAGER AND A FAILOVER DEVICE

MAIL STOP RCE

Honorable Commissioner
for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

In response to the After Final Office Action mailed July 5, 2005 ("the Final Office Action") and the Advisory Action ("the Advisory Action") mailed September 19, 2005, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following Amendments thereto, and the comments as set forth below. Please amend the Application as follows.